

Synthesis and Reactivity of Fluoro Complexes. Part 1. Cyclooctadiene Rhodium(I) Complexes

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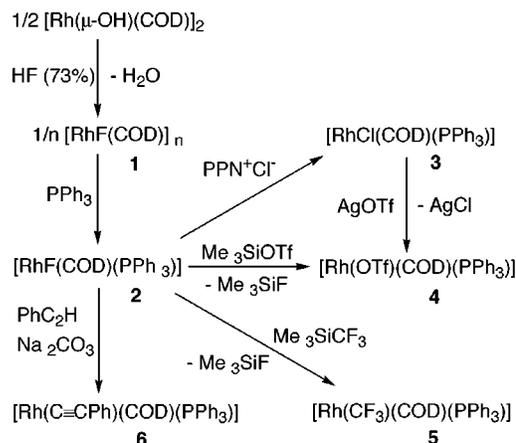
There is a growing interest in the study of transition metal organometallic fluoro complexes.¹ The unique properties of fluorine impart an unusual reactivity to the metal–fluorine bond which can be exploited in preparative organometallic chemistry² or in catalysis.³ In addition, the development of transition metal mediated C–F bond formation processes is still a virtually unexplored field.⁴

The number of rhodium(I) fluoro complexes is still scarce, and very few studies on their reactivity have been reported.⁵ To the best of our knowledge, only two Rh(I) fluoro complexes without phosphine, arsine, or stibine ligands have been prepared. The first, tentatively formulated as $[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-F})(\text{cyclooctene})_2]_2$, was obtained by reacting $[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-Cl})(\text{cyclooctene})_2]_2$ with AgF .^{5c} The second was the tetramer $[\text{Rh}(\mu^3\text{-F})(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)(\text{C}_2\text{F}_4)]_4$, which was prepared by the successive treatment of $[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-Cl})(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)(\text{C}_2\text{F}_4)]_2$ with AgBF_4 and the fluoride donor reagent $[(\text{Me}_2\text{N})_3\text{S}]^+[\text{Me}_3\text{SiF}_2]^-$.^{5f}

Herein, we report the synthesis of two novel rhodium(I) fluoro complexes containing cyclooctadiene (COD) and a preliminary study of the reactivity of the Rh–F bond, which is shown to be substantially different from that of the other Rh–halogen bonds.

Treatment of $[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-OH})(\text{COD})]_2$ ⁶ with 73% hydrofluoric acid in THF gave compound **1** as a yellow microcrystalline precipitate in 82% yield (Scheme 1). The NMR spectra of **1** were of poor quality because, in contrast to $[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-X})(\text{COD})]_2$ (X = Cl, OH), it is only sparingly soluble in organic solvents, which impeded determination of its structure in solution.⁷ We were unable to grow single crystals of **1** for X-ray structure determination, however, we are currently attempting the preparation of more soluble fluoro

Scheme 1



complexes containing different dienes for its structural characterization.

The main product of the reaction of compound **1** with 1 equiv of triphenylphosphine in THF is **2**, which was isolated in 59% yield. The crystal structure of **2** was determined by X-ray diffraction analysis⁸ and shows a distorted square-planar coordination geometry (Figure 1). As expected from the greater trans influence of PPh_3 with respect to F^- , the Rh–C(5) and Rh–C(6) distances are longer than the Rh–C(1) and Rh–C(2) ones (Figure 1).

In the ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of **2**, a broad singlet was observed at high field (δ –256.9 ppm in d_8 -toluene) characteristic of Rh–(I)-bound fluorine.^{5j} The room temperature ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum displays a broad singlet at δ 23.0 ppm which splits into a broad doublet at $T < -20$ °C with $^1J_{\text{RHP}} = 159.3$ Hz.⁹ The ³¹P–¹⁹F and ¹⁰³Rh–¹⁹F couplings were not resolved even at –90 °C. This suggests that, although **2** is the main species present in solution, fast Rh–F and Rh–P bond dissociations take place to give products whose nature is still not clear. Complex **2** is the first fluoro complex of Rh(I) with only one phosphine ligand.

(7) Broad signals assignable to the COD ligand were observed in the ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra of **1** (d_8 -THF) at room temperature. No signals were observed in the ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (d_8 -THF) in the +20 to –380 ppm range (relative to external CFCl_3) at temperatures from +60 to –80 °C.

(8) Crystal data for **3** were recorded on a Siemens P4 diffractometer, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{FPRh}$ (492.36), monoclinic ($P2_1/c$) $a = 12.7652(7)$ Å, $b = 11.3795(7)$ Å, $c = 14.6419(8)$ Å, $\beta = 95.728(4)^\circ$, $V = 2116.3(2)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $\rho_{\text{calc}} = 1.545$ Mg/m³, $\mu = 0.901$ mm^{–1}, $F(000) = 1008$, $T = 173(2)$ K; θ range = 3.08–25.00, $-15 \leq h \leq 15$, $-13 \leq k \leq 1$, $-17 \leq l \leq 0$; reflect. collected, 3891; indep reflns, 3720 ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0140$), abs corr ψ -scans, max and min transmission 0.79798 and 0.75555; structure refinement full-matrix least squares on F^2 , data/restraints/parameters 3720/208/262, GOF on $F^2 = 1.057$, final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$], $R1 = 0.0205$, all data $wR2 = 0.0498$; largest diff peak and hole 0.372 and –0.331 eÅ^{–3}.

(9) This value is similar to the ones found in $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})(\text{PR}_3)]$ complexes; see Naaktgeboren, A. J.; Nolte, R. J. M.; Drenth, W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, 3350–3354.

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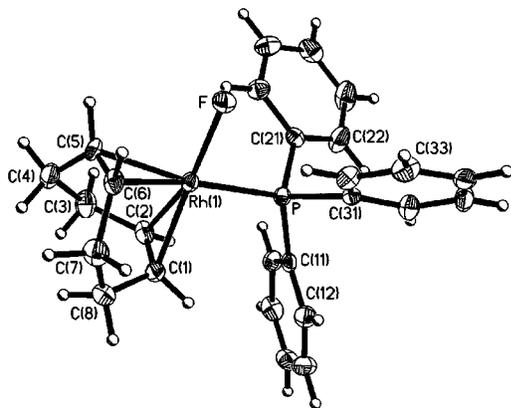


Figure 1. Molecular structure of **2** with 50% probability ellipsoids and the labeling scheme. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Rh–F 2.0214(12), Rh–C(1) 2.115(2), Rh–C(2) 2.097(2), Rh–C(5) 2.197(2), Rh–C(6) 2.189(2), C(1)–C(2) 1.399(3), C(5)–C(6) 1.379(3), Rh–P 2.3229(5); F–Rh–C(5) 89.06(7), F–Rh–C(6) 87.24(7), C(1)–Rh–P 96.92(6), C(2)–Rh–P 92.86(6), F–Rh–P 89.40(4).

Treatment of **2** with PPN^+Cl^- ($\text{PPN} = [\text{Ph}_3\text{P}]_2\text{N}$) gave quantitatively the chloro complex **3**.¹⁰ The reaction of **2** with $\text{Me}_3\text{SiO}_3\text{SCF}_3$ afforded Me_3SiF , which was detected by ^1H and ^{19}F NMR spectroscopy, and compound **4** in 87% yield. The triflate **4** can be also prepared by the reaction of **3** with AgCF_3SO_3 .

The reaction of **2** with Me_3SiCF_3 afforded complex **5**, which was isolated in 76% yield, and Me_3SiF . This synthetic method has been previously used only for the preparation of Ru and Os trifluoromethyl complexes.¹¹ We were interested in testing this method on Rh(I) fluoro complexes since only one Rh(I) trifluoromethyl complex is known.¹² The crystal structure of **5** was determined by X-ray diffraction (Figure 2).¹³ Two independent molecules were found in the unit cell which show very small differences in both bond distances and angles. In contrast to complex **2**, the Rh–C distances were similar for both Rh–olefin bonds, which suggest that CF_3 and PPh_3 have similar trans influences. This is the first crystal structure determination of a Rh(I) trifluoromethyl complex. In C_6D_6 solution, the $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum shows a doublet of quartets with $^1J_{\text{RhP}} = 177.9$ Hz and $^3J_{\text{PF}} = 21.4$ Hz.

The alkynyl complex $[\text{Rh}(\text{C}\equiv\text{CPh})(\text{COD})(\text{PPh}_3)]$ (**6**) was obtained in 79% yield by reaction of **2** with 1 equiv of phenyl

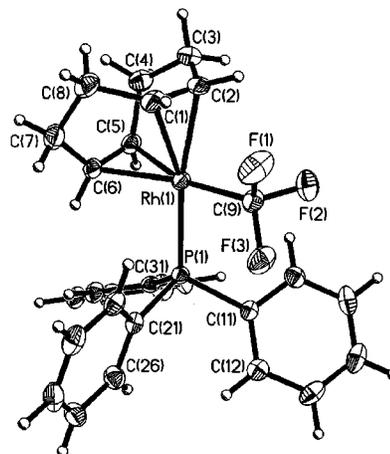


Figure 2. Molecular structure of **5** with 50% probability ellipsoids and the labeling scheme. Only one of the two independent molecules is displayed. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Rh(1)–C(9) 2.097(2), Rh(1)–C(1) 2.215(2), Rh(1)–C(2) 2.194(2), Rh(1)–C(5) 2.208(2), Rh(1)–C(6) 2.206(2), Rh(1)–P(1) 2.3245(5), C(1)–C(2) 1.381(3), C(5)–C(6) 1.379(3); C(9)–Rh(1)–C(2) 87.60(9), C(9)–Rh(1)–C(1) 91.55(8), C(9)–Rh(1)–P(1) 91.13(6), C(6)–Rh(1)–P(1) 90.01(6), C(5)–Rh(1)–P(1) 96.71(6).

acetylene in the presence of Na_2CO_3 , which neutralized the HF formed in the reaction.⁵ It is noteworthy that $[\text{RhCl}(\text{COD})(\text{PPh}_3)]$ does not react appreciably with phenyl acetylene under the same conditions. The presence of the alkynyl unit was confirmed by the IR [$\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{C}) = 2084 \text{ cm}^{-1}$] and ^{13}C NMR spectra, which displayed two doublets at δ 121.5 ppm ($^1J_{\text{RhC}} = 48.6$ Hz) and 120.8 ppm ($^2J_{\text{RhC}} = 12.2$ Hz) for the α and β alkynyl carbons, respectively. An exchange process involving dissociation of the phosphine is likely responsible for the absence of the $^{13}\text{C}_{\alpha,\beta}$ – ^{31}P couplings and for the broad singlet observed in the $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum at room temperature. On cooling at -10 °C, this broad singlet was transformed into a doublet ($^1J_{\text{RhP}} = 159.8$ Hz).

Recently, it has been reported that complexes of the general composition $[\text{Rh}(\text{C}\equiv\text{CAr})(\text{Nbd})(\text{PR}_3)]$ generated in situ are excellent initiators for the controlled living polymerization of phenylacetylenes.¹⁴ However, in contrast to **6**, these species are too unstable to be isolated. Preliminary experiments show that polymerization of phenylacetylene takes place in the presence of catalytic amounts of **2** or **6**, both in the presence of Na_2CO_3 , to give polyphenylacetylene in a nearly quantitative yield.

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Supporting Information Available: Synthetic procedures, spectral and analytical data for **1–6**, crystallographic files in CIF format for compounds **3** and **5**, and ORTEP plots of the two independent molecules of **5**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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 (13) Crystal data for **5** were recorded on a Siemens P4 diffractometer, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å. $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{27}\text{F}_3\text{Rh}$ (542.37), triclinic (*P*–1), $a = 11.8239(5)$ Å, $b = 13.0316(7)$ Å, $c = 15.0851(9)$ Å, $\alpha = 92.237(5)^\circ$, $\beta = 99.544(4)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90.658(4)^\circ$, $V = 2290.1(2)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $\rho_{\text{calc}} = 1.573$ Mg/m³, $\mu = 0.853$ mm⁻¹, $F(000) = 1104$, $T = 173(2)$ K; θ range = 3.10–25.00, $-14 \leq h \leq 14$, $-15 \leq k \leq 15$, $-17 \leq l \leq 5$; reflns collected, 11116; indep reflns, 8040 ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0145$), abs corr ψ -scans, max and min transmission 0.78749 and 0.75721; structure refinement full-matrix least squares on F^2 , data/restraints/parameters 8040/508/577, GOF on $F^2 = 1.066$, final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$], $R1 = 0.0211$, all data $wR2 = 0.0520$; largest diff peak and hole 0.318 and -0.313 eÅ⁻³.

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